

**In the Claims****Amend claim 1 as follows:**

1. (currently amended) A quenched and tempered steel wire with superior cold forging characteristics, comprising 0.1 – 0.5 wt% of C, 1.0 wt% or less of Si, 0.20 – 2.5 wt% of Mn, 0.03 wt% or less of P, and 0.03 wt% or less of S, with the balance being Fe and inevitable impurities, which has tensile strength in a range of 700-1300 Mpa and a structure of a martensite base and carbides precipitated therefrom, with a percent spheroidization of carbides not less than 30%.

2. (original) The quenched and tempered steel wire as defined in claim 1, further comprising at least one component selected from among 0.05 – 2.0 wt% of Cr, 0.05 – 1.5 wt% of Mo and 0.0003 – 0.0050 wt% of B.

3. (original) A quenched and tempered steel wire with superior cold forging characteristics, comprising the steel wire of claim 1 drawn.

4. (original) A quenched and tempered steel wire with superior cold forging characteristics, comprising the steel wire of claim 2 drawn.